NAM and G-15 Summits India played an active role in strengthening the Movement by reaffirming its relevance, defining its agenda and projecting the imperative of South-South Cooperation on the basis of collective self-reliance.

617. [*Transferred to 7th December, 1992*]

Indo-Pak Relations

618. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Pakistan relations have of late, been subjected to strains;

(b) if so, the causes therefor; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to maintain cordial relations with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has not, unfortunately, changed the direction of its policy towards India and it continues to aid and abet terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. This approach is not conducive to the creation of mutual trust and confidence or to the conduct of a meaningful dialogue for normalisation of relations.

Government trust that Pakistan will stop its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India, abandon its negative attitude and join in efforts to establish good neighbourly relations.

It is in this context that India remains committed to continuing the bilateral dialogue with Pakistan authorities at appropriate levels.

French Interests in Nuclear Dialogue in South Asia

619. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether France have shown interests in the nuclear dialogue in the South Asia recently; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) France has expressed interest in bilateral discussions with India at senior official level on matters relating to disarmament, non-proliferation, nuclear energy and related matters. There is also a change in the French vote this year in the General Assembly on Pakistan sponsored resolution "Establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in South Asia", on which they had previously abstained. It was explained by the French that this change is in keeping with their decision to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. India has conveyed to the French authorities that it cannot accept the Pakistan proposal for 5-nation talks as it maintains that nuclear disarmament issues should be addressed on a global and not piecemeal basis.

Proposal for bus service between Agratala and Calcutta through Bangladesh

620. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Transport Ministry for bus service between Agartala and Calcutta through Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been taken up with Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channel;

(c) what is the reaction of Bangladesh Government to this proposal; and

(d) whether the proposal has been discussed with Bangladesh Government at any level when Prime Minister of that country visited India with a delegation of high officials recently, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.